

**I. List 3-5 Student Learning Outcomes for students enrolled in your program.**

*These should be broad overarching learning goals. They are bigger than objectives.*

In Performing Arts (Music), students will learn to:

- Observe and analyse artistic examples of written and performed music
- Develop the skill to execute similar musical examples
- Develop fluency in the language of the discipline
- Exercise creativity
- Critically evaluate their own progress and development
- Synthesize all the above skills in performance

**II. Align the Program Level SLOs with the College Goals.**

*Briefly discuss how your program meets the goals of the college.*

**College Goal #1: Educational Excellence**

Increasingly, students are coming into our program with less and less background and experience. It used to be standard that a music student entering college would know how to read music, at least at a basic functional level. Since basic music training in reading music is no longer provided as a part of standard elementary education, we now have students entering our courses who have musical ability, but little or no training in reading music. This compromises our ability as instructors to teach the required skills during the typical two-year program. In addition, because of the low level of skill of many of students in class, the more advanced students become frustrated, and often transfer to four year colleges before they finish the COM program. We would like to recruit and retain more well-prepared students to our program as well as provide some courses or learning aids to remediate the skills of those students who enter our program underprepared.

**College goal #5: Workforce Development Needs**

To meet this need, the music department would like to establish more courses, particularly short courses in late afternoon, which will attract more students who are music professionals to the COM music department, to develop their skills and knowledge. Although some of our students already come here for this purpose, many musicians need professional development courses, but do not want to commit to a course that meets the entire semester. The students we are trying to attract are elementary school teachers, private instrument and voice instructors, church choir conductors, freelance musicians and composers. The kinds of courses these people need would also be valuable additions to the music major program: basics of conducting, using computer musical notation software to create sheet music, pedagogy courses (such as piano pedagogy for piano teachers of young students), creative teaching techniques, and improvisation for the classical performer, among others.

**College Goal #8: Physical Environment**

The Fine Arts Building has been in poor shape for a long time. Through fundraising efforts, with no help from the College, we were able to renovate our small concert hall. But the rest of the facility is very poor. Until a few months ago, some of the rooms had their original paint, from when the building was built in 1966. The deplorable condition of the restrooms is legendary, and we have lost quite a number of our former concert patrons because they do not want to have to use these unsanitary restrooms. Although a renovation is planned, very little of our needs are being met -rather, we are being reduced in space, and the main theater will not be upgraded. A second bond issue will be needed to address these concerns, and to build the needed 250 seat smaller concert theater that is so urgently needed.

**II. Assess the student success in your program.**

*How do you know students learned the core SLOs by the completion of curriculum/program. Include data to support these findings.*

Our students must demonstrate their musical skills both through written examinations, portfolios, and projects as well as perform individually and in large and small groups in departmental and public musical concerts.

**IV. Document student success/achievement in the program.**

*Possible documentation materials might include Degrees, Awards, Transfer, Portfolios, Capstone Assignments, Success in Job Placement, etc.)*

While only a few of our music majors take the A.A. Degree in music from COM, our students have had good success in transferring to four-year colleges, universities and conservatories. Most music schools place students into their programs by placement test results rather than accepting credits from past studies. Our majors usually pass these exams successfully and place into junior standing at their transfer institutions.

There are numerous successful COM music graduates who are now respected composers (Mark Adler, Mike Ellison, Trevor Bjorklund, Matthew Goodheart, Nick Peck), talented professional musicians and music teachers (Tara Flandreau, Joanna Pinckney, Rhonda Bingham, Jan Gauder Volkert, Heidi Witt, Terry Bozzio, Tom Finch, Michael

Struck, Jeannete Teitze, and others too numerous to mention), violinmakers (Michael Scoggins) and filmmakers (Tal Skloot).

#### **V. Note areas for future improvement.**

*Address needs of program like curricular innovation, resource allocation, upgrading facilities , technology, unit allocation, staffing, etc.*

Curriculum should be expanded to include more offerings which would attract music professionals and talented high school students. In particular, short courses which meet fewer weeks than the typical 16-17 week semester and which meet later in the afternoon, or evening, would be likely to attract more quality students to the program. If these offerings are successful, creation of a music certificate program in the future might be beneficial.

The campus modernization currently in progress will actually do little to improve our building, for lack of funding. Complete renovation of the main theater, construction of a new 250 seat concert hall, improved music library/lab facilities, and better ensemble practice space is needed. The concert grand pianos need to be refurbished, as do many of the upright pianos and other small instruments. The music library/listening lab facility is antiquated, and lacks sufficient storage. Computer technology, video projection, and recording technology and facilities need to be made fully functional.

The music department has never had sufficient money for necessary hourly staff to take care of essential functions such as concert recording technicians, house managers for concerts, and stage managers for concerts. Safety and security can be compromised when there is no money to hire hourly staff for these positions. Instructors have injured or overworked themselves by having to move numerous pieces of equipment to set up their classes/concerts. This function should be handled by a competent stage manager. Concerts have been recorded improperly or not at all, due to the lack of competent student recording technicians.